

Witnesses traveled at their own expense from across the country and all over the world, including Israel and Europe, to testify before the commission. We heard from Mr. Natan Sharansky, the noted human rights activist who spent nine years in the Soviet Gulag and current Chairman of the Executive for the Jewish Agency for Israel; Ms. Geng He, wife of imprisoned Chinese human rights lawyer Gao Zhisheng, who was accompanied by Mr. Jared Genser, founder, Freedom Now and pro bono counsel for Gao Zhisheng; Mr. Josh Colangelo-Bryan, pro bono attorney on behalf of imprisoned Bahraini human rights activist Nabeel Rajab; and Mrs. Tran Thi Ngoc Minh, mother of imprisoned Vietnamese labor activist Do Thi Minh Hanh. Dr. Robert P. George, chairman of the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom and Mr. Gal Beckerman, author, *When They Come for Us We'll be Gone: The Epic Struggle to Save Soviet Jewry* also testified.

I felt it was important to continue this hearing as these witnesses were advocating for the lives of their friends and loved ones.

Had I been present I would have voted "no" on roll call 22, the motion to recommit, and "aye" on roll call 23, final passage of H.R. 3362, the Exchange Information Disclosure Act, as I fully support efforts to require transparency in the operation of American Health Benefit Exchanges.

TRIBUTE TO KIMBERLEY THOMAS

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 16, 2014

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the achievements of Kimberley Thomas of Des Moines, Iowa for receiving a coveted Fulbright award to study and conduct research abroad this academic year.

The Fulbright Program is sponsored by the United States Department of State, Bureau of Education and Cultural Affairs. This program is known as America's flagship international exchange program. First established by Congress in 1946, the Fulbright Program has served the purpose of building mutual understanding between American citizens and the rest of the world. Appropriations from the United States Congress, participating foreign governments, and private sector contributions fund the Fulbright Program. The program has exchanged over a quarter of a million people in more than 155 countries, since its inception. Kimberley's host country for 2014 is Bangladesh.

To receive a Fulbright award is truly a great honor. Recipients of this award must demonstrate significant leadership potential in their chosen field and are selected on the basis of their academic or professional achievement.

The experiences provided by this program ensure that tomorrow's leaders are both knowledgeable about the world and well-rounded.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent future leaders like Kimberley from the great state of Iowa in the United States Congress. I know my colleagues in the House will join me in congratulating her for receiving this prestigious award and I wish her the best of luck in her studies and future career.

CONGRATULATING THE BANGOR REGION CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AWARD RECIPIENTS

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 16, 2014

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the honorees of the 2014 Bangor Region Chamber of Commerce Annual Dinner. The Bangor Region Chamber of Commerce serves the people and business community of the greater Bangor area, working hard to strengthen economic opportunity throughout the region and the state.

Each year, the Bangor Region Chamber of Commerce recognizes local businesses, business leaders, and individuals who promote and advance a vital and healthy business environment. These individuals and businesses are committed to strengthening opportunity and prosperity in Maine.

This year's award recipients include: Miles Theeman, recipient of the Norbert X. Dowd Award; Hollywood Casino, recipient of the Business of the Year Award; Senator Edward Youngblood, recipient of the Catherine Lebowitz Award for Public Service; the City of Bangor, recipient of the Community Service Award; Acadia Hospital, recipient of the Non-Profit of the Year Award; Steve Pound, recipient of the Arthur A. Comstock Professional Service Award; Cerahelix, recipient of the Bion and Dorain Foster Entrepreneurship Award.

These recipients are among the best that Maine has to offer. Through their leadership and incredible commitment to their communities and the region, Maine is a better place in which to live and do business.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating the Bangor Region Chamber of Commerce and these individuals on their outstanding service and achievement.

TRIBUTE TO ARNOLD PINKNEY

HON. MARCIA L. FUDGE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 16, 2014

Ms. FUDGE. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the citizens of the Eleventh Congressional District

of Ohio, I rise today to recognize a great Ohioan, Arnold Pinkney, who passed away Monday, January 13, 2014, at 83 years of age.

Arnold Pinkney was an extraordinary political strategist and mentor to generations of elected leaders, including me. He had an innate understanding of people's needs and knew how elected officials could best articulate and pursue policies that achieved the common good.

Mr. Pinkney managed the Cleveland mayoral campaign of Carl Stokes, who in 1967 became the first African-American mayor to lead a major American city. Mr. Pinkney went on to manage successful campaigns for the Honorable Louis Stokes. He also co-managed Ohio gubernatorial campaigns of Dick Celeste.

Arnold managed the 1984 presidential campaign of Rev. Jesse Jackson, Sr. Notably, the strategy used in Rev. Jackson's campaign resulted in the significant presence of delegates at the Democratic National Convention. The presence of Rev. Jackson and his delegates allowed for their meaningful input into the party's focus and priorities for the election cycle and beyond, and opened a door that eventually culminated in the election and re-election of President Barack Obama over 20 years later.

Mr. Pinkney was elected to and served many years on the Cleveland Metropolitan School District Board of Education, including time as its president. He also helped the school district pass levies critically needed to educate the city's children and provided successful strategic advice to other local public office candidates.

What I remember most about Arnold is his passion to use the talents with which he was blessed to improve our community. His love of politics was inspired and nurtured early on by the great Hubert Humphrey, having served as deputy manager for the Vice President's 1968 presidential campaign. Vice President Humphrey once said, "The moral test of a government is how it treats those who are at the dawn of life, the children; those who are in the twilight of life, the aged; and those who are in the shadow of life, the sick, the needy, and the handicapped." Mr. Pinkney kept those words close to heart as he strategized with and advised so many of us.

Mr. Pinkney was also an astute businessman. He was the first African American agent for the Prudential Insurance Company, and later co-founded the Pinkney-Perry Insurance Agency, which remains a thriving business in northeast Ohio today.

Financial success did not blind Arnold Pinkney to the needs of the people and the need of government to serve all people. He lived his life to the fullest, and left the world a better place than he found it.